

Cero was the K-9 partner of Deputy William R. Niemi. The loyal German shepherd was born November 3, 1997, in Germany, and had received his Ohio Peace Officer Training and North American Work Dog Association certification in December 1999. Since that time, he had worked diligently for the K-9 unit at the sheriff's department, often assisting with felony apprehensions and drug arrests.

Mr. Speaker, the death of K-9 Cero has deeply touched folks throughout Northeast Ohio, and the grieving extends beyond his partner, his partner's family, and the sheriff's department. Many people were moved by the heroic sacrifice of this dog, and folks are left to wonder how anyone could shoot and kill a human being and then a police dog in the blink of an eye. The shooting deaths of Walter Olson and K-9 Cero have plunged the community of Jefferson into a period of collective mourning.

Mr. Speaker, Cero will be laid to rest tomorrow with full police honors, and officers and police K-9 units from throughout Ohio are expected to attend the service. Cero is the first police dog in Northeast Ohio to die in the line of duty in more than 20 years. I have asked that a United States flag be flown over the Capitol in honor of Cero Niemi, his partner, Deputy William Niemi, and the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Speaker, K-9 Cero is credited with saving the lives of at least two officers, and possibly more on this one violent morning. He died like any other officer in the line of duty; trying to make our streets and communities safe. K-9 Cero's duty and sacrifice are worthy of recognition, and I extend my sympathies to Deputy Niemi; his wife, Julie; their children, Heather, Brittany and Jonathan; and Cero's K-9 companion, Abby.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD a poem in Cero's memory. It is by an anonymous author and captures the bond between officers and their K-9 partners.

GUARDIANS OF THE NIGHT

Trust in me my friend for I am your comrade. I will protect you with my last breath. When all others have left you and the loneliness of the night closes in, I will be at your side.

Together we will conquer all obstacles, and search out those who might wish harm to others. All I ask of you is compassion, the caring touch of your hands. It is for you that I will unselfishly give my life and spend my nights unrested. Although our days together may be marked by the passing of the seasons, know that each day at your side is my reward.

My days are measured by the coming and going of your footsteps. I anticipate them at every opening of the door. You are the voice of caring when I am ill, the voice of authority when I've done wrong.

Do not chastise me unduly for I am your right arm, the sword at your side. I attempt to do only what you bid of me. I seek only to please you and remain in your favor.

Together you and I shall experience a bond only others like us will understand. When outsiders see us together their envy will be measured by their disdain.

I will quietly listen to you and pass no judgment, nor will your spoken words be repeated. I will remain ever silent, ever vigilant, ever loyal. And when our time together is done and you move on in the world, re-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

member me with kind thoughts and tales, for a time we were unbeatable, nothing passed among us undetected.

If we should meet again on another street I will gladly take up your fight, I am a Police Working Dog and together we are guardians of the night.

HONORING GEORGE ROACH ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION'S 2000 COMPUTERWORLD PERMANENT RESEARCH COLLECTION

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate Mr. George Roach, a constituent and neighbor from Long Island, who as a system specialist with the Consolidated Edison Company has recently been honored by Computerworld Smithsonian Program (CWSP). Each year the CWSP identifies and honors individuals and organizations whose vision in the use of Information Technology produces a positive social, economic or educational change. The CWSP is considered one of the most prestigious awards program in the information technology industry. As a 2000 laureate, Mr. Roach's pioneering work was inducted into the Smithsonian Institution's 2000 Computerworld Permanent Research Collection.

Mr. Roach and his team of Customer Operations, Information Resources and Treasury Operations employees were instrumental in implementing Con Edison's use of the Intell-A-Check Program. This new development allows customers to choose the method of billing that is most appropriate for them, whether is be writing a traditional check, using a telephone key pad or authorizing payment over the Internet. Customers utilized these various electronic payment applications over 1.85 million times in the year 1999 alone. Through his innovation, Mr. Roach has significantly cut costs and improved customer satisfaction.

Mr. Roach's work was recognized by Bill Gates, a leading pioneer in the technology field. When Roach's efforts came to the attention of the prominent Chairman and CEO of Microsoft Corporation, he nominated Roach for inclusion in the Smithsonian Institution's Permanent Research Collection. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join the Computerworld Smithsonian Program in commending Mr. Roach for his groundbreaking work in the field of information technology. On behalf of the people of Long Island, I would like to thank Mr. Roach for the prestige and high level of technology his work has brought to our area of New York.

IN HONOR OF MR. MARK SMITH, RECIPIENT OF THIS YEAR'S CIRCOLO ITALIANO CLUB OF BAYONNE MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mark Smith of Bayonne, New Jersey, for being named this year's "Man of the Year" by the Circolo Italiano Club of Bayonne.

Starting out in the Bayonne Police Department's Patrol Division in 1983, Mr. Smith's keen abilities and dedication to his career helped him to move quickly through the ranks. In 1985, Mr. Smith was promoted to detective of the Narcotics Squad; and, by 1988, he was assigned to the City of Bayonne Department of Public Safety's Detective Bureau.

Mr. Smith's remarkable and impressive career on the police force has earned him numerous service and valor awards. He has received more than forty Excellent Police Service Awards and more than twenty departmental commendations, as well as the Hudson County American Legion Police Officer of the Year Award in 1992; the City of Bayonne Police Department Valor Award in 1991; the New Jersey State PBA Valor Award in 1991; and the Hudson County 200 Club Valor Award in 1991, and again in 1999.

In addition to his work for the police force, Mr. Smith has been active in a variety of community service organizations. He has served on the board of the Chandelier Golf Charity Committee and the Hudson County ARC, and has dedicated his time as a member of the Bayonne Hospital Citywide Health Steering Committee, the Bayonne Elks Club, the Bayonne Chapter of UNICO, and the Bayonne Family Y.M.C.A.

For his dedication and service to the citizens of Bayonne, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Mark Smith on being named this year's Circolo Italiano Club's Man of the Year.

HONORING DEACON WALTER O. HEATH

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Deacon Walter O. Heath. I am very proud to join with the Second Baptist Church of Modesto, in my district in California's magnificent Central Valley, in honoring Deacon Heath for his many years of unselfish dedication to the church and its members.

Walter was born in Mill Flat, Louisiana, on March 8, 1913 and moved to California in 1944. He joined the Second Baptist Church in 1945, later becoming a deacon. He served on the committee to bring the Reverend Howard Clark to the church as pastor and worked to secure the land to build the new church at